

*The Case of the Refiners of England, with reference to  
Forreign Imported Molossoes, a Duty intended to be laid  
on the Spirits drawn from our own Molossoes.*

**R**efining of Sugars has been a very Ancient Art and Myſtery in this Kingdom, and has ( by former Encouragements from the Government ) been always eſteemed very profitable thereunto ; In that this Trade gives a livelihood not only to great numbers of menial Servants therein employed, but to ſome thouſands of Subjects, who in their reſpective Callings have their dependance thereon, whereby they have occaſion'd the Expence of at leaſt Fifty Thouſand Pounds *per Annum* in this Kingdom.

And great Eſtates have been expended, in erecting many large Sugar-works in this Kingdom for that purpoſe.

Vaſt quantities of Coals are conſumed in this Trade, when in full work, which pays a great Duty.

And not only by the imploy of Shipping in the Coal Trade, but the increaſe of our Shipping in the Plantation Trade, by Importing Brown Sugars, our Navigation, the Strength and Glory of this Kingdom is much encouraged.

The *French* and *Dutch* being ſenſible hereof, have moſt ſtudiouſly promoted this Trade within themſelves, and conſequently our diſcouraging thereof will tend to the tranſplanting of it.

But of late years it has very unhappily lain under great diſcouragements in this Kingdom, partly by the vaſt and increaſing Importation of wrought Sugars from our own Plantations, and partly alſo by the great advantage which the Forreign Buyer has had of the Home Refiner ; for the whole Duty upon unpurged Sugars is three Shillings and ten pence *per* hundred, out of which the Forreign Buyer draws back three Shillings and a penny, and leaves the King poſſeſſed but of Nine pence. The Refiners of this Kingdom Expending Annually in their uſual Working about Fifteen Thouſand Tuns of unpurg'd Sugars, which at 3 s. 10 d. *per* Hundred, pays the King Fifty Seven Thouſand Five Hundred Pounds ; but if the ſaid Fifteen Thouſand Tuns of Brown Sugars be Exported ( by reaſon of the diſcouragement given to the working of them here ) they draw back Forty Six Thouſand Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds, and leaves the King poſſeſſed only but of Eleven Thouſand Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds, and were Incouragement given to this Trade, the Revenue would grow up with it ; whereby our own Plantation Sugars are wrought cheaper in Forreign parts, than they can be by the Home Refiner ; which has ſo diſcouraged this Trade in this Kingdom, that the generality of the Refiners have been neceſſitated greatly to abate their works ; and had not the price of Molossoes, commonly called Treacle, yielded them ſome ſmall Encouragement, they muſt have wholly declined their Trades.

57500.
46250.
<hr/> 11250.

But ſo great are the quantities of Molossoes, which are now daily Imported into this Kingdom from Forreign parts, that the generality of the Refiners are forced wholly to deſiſt their working, and can have no rational hope of reviving their works ; unleſs ſome proportional Additional Duty be laid upon Forreign Imported Molossoes, and Encouragement given to the Diſtillers Conſumption of our own Molossoes : It being a Commodity of ſo great uſe to the Diſtiller, in making palatable the Spirits drawn from Corn, and other Engliſh Materials, to ſupply this Kingdom, in the room and ſtead of French Brandies, that the Diſtiller cannot Draw ſo Clean a Spirit from our own Corn to Imitate Brandy without the help thereof.

This Commodity not being ( as ſome have very weakly apprehended ) the Droſs, Filth, Scum, and Dregs of Sugar, but the clean, pure, and clear part of the Sugar, which through weakneſs will not come to Grain, and be Imbodied, and is to all intents as wholeſom as the Sugar from which it comes, as can be made appear.

Whereupon it is moſt Humbly hoped that nothing will be determined, by the Honourable the Commons of *England* now Aſſembled in Parliament, in Prejudice and Ruin of this Antient Trade, by charging a greater Duty upon Spirits drawn from our own Molossoes than upon Spirits drawn from Corn ; the Encouraging of the Expence of Molossoes being the only true way to Encourage the Expence of Corn in Diſtilling ; and thereby to ſecure both the Revenue to the Crown, and Incouragement to the Farmer.